

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Please replace the paragraph at page 1, after the Title, as follows:**

**--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**

This application is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/967,204 filed September 28, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,616,661 issued September 9, 2003, the entire contents of which is incorporated herein by reference.--

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 28 as follows:**

--Referring now to Figures 1-3, a slot 106 is disposed at a distal end 104c of the first shaft 104. The slot 106 is preferably formed by removing material from a cross-sectional portion of the first shaft 104 such that the slot 106 has a peripheral edge 106a, also referred to as a hook member, defining the boundaries of the slot 106. The removal of material to form the slot 106 can be done by conventional machining or punching processes known in the art. The slot 106 is shown encompassing a large portion of the cross-section of the first shaft 104 so as to accommodate the largest size tissue 101 possible for a given diameter first shaft 104.--